

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A drilling fluid additive comprising crumb rubber particles, the crumb having a diameter of from about 400 to about 4000 microns.
2. The drilling fluid additive of claim 1 further comprising a hydrocarbon fluid.
3. The drilling fluid additive of claim 1 wherein said crumb rubber has a density of from about 8.5 to about 10.5 ppg.
4. The drilling fluid additive of claim 2 wherein said hydrocarbon fluid is selected from the group consisting of crude oil, diesel oil, mineral oil, gasoline, naptha, toluene, ethylenedichloride, synthetic oils and mixtures thereof.
5. The drilling fluid additive of claim 1 further comprising cellulose fiber.
6. The drilling fluid additive of claim 1 wherein the crumb rubber particles are capable of expanding to at least 40% of their original size upon exposure to hydrocarbon fluids.
7. A drilling fluid additive for reducing lost circulation of drilling fluids comprising:
 - (a) Crumb rubber particles capable of expanding upon exposure to heat, said particles having a diameter of from 400 to 4000 microns; and
 - (b) a hydrocarbon fluid.
8. The drilling fluid additive of claim 7 wherein said crumb rubber. The particles have a density of from about 8.5 to about 10.5 ppg.

9. The drilling fluid additive of claim 9 wherein said crumb rubber particles are capable of expanding at least 40% of their original size upon exposure to a hydrocarbon fluid.

10. A method of reducing lost circulation in a well comprising:

- (a) preparing a pill of crumb rubber particles and hydrocarbon fluid;
- (b) injecting said pill into said well; and
- (c) forcing said pill into a lost circulation zone

wherein said rubber particles have a diameter of from about 400 to about 4000 microns.

11. The method of claim 10 wherein the crumb rubber has particles varying in size from 400 to 2000 microns.

12. The method of claim 10 wherein said hydrocarbon fluid is selected from the group consisting of crude oil, diesel oil, kerosene, mineral oil, gasoline, naptha, toluene, ethylenedichloride and mixtures thereof.

13. The method of claim 10 wherein said hydrocarbon fluid comprises diesel oil.